

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed June 2, 2005.

By this Amendment, claims 15 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 10-14 are pending in the present application.

In view of this Amendment, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in the interest of expediting the allowance of the present application, Applicant has cancelled claims 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claim 15 (not claim 16 as confirmed by the Examiner in a telephone interview) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Haile et al. (U.S. Patent 6,582,818). Further, claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Haile et al. in view of Papsin Jr. (U.S. Patent 6,281,298). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. However, in the interest of expediting the allowance of the present application, Applicant has cancelled claims 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot these rejections.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the pending claims are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of these amendments and remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that would place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Dated: September 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.